

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

/033 W

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R 161645Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8082

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6102

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: HEALTH OF TITO AND KARDELJ

1. FOLLOWING ARE OFFERED AS COMMENTS BY YUGOSLAVS  
ON THE HEALTH OF TITO AND KARDELJ.

2. AT DINNER EVENING SEPTEMBER 15 ATTENDED BY  
AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY DOCTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BELGRADE'S  
SECOND SURGICAL CLINIC TERMED TITO'S ILLNESS "HEPATIC  
INSUFFICIENCY." HE SAID THIS COULD BE HEPATITIS BUT THERE  
COULD BE OTHER CAUSES AS WELL; AND WITH A SHRUG OF HIS  
SHOULDERS SAID: "TUMORS COULD DO IT TOO." TITO IS  
APPARENTLY BEING CARED FOR IN SLOVENIA.

3. EMBASSY DOCTOR PERSONALLY DOES NOT BELIEVE THE BELGRADE  
SURGEON WAS SPEAKING FROM ANY PARTICULAR INSIDE INFORMATION  
BUT WAS MAKING A PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITIES  
OF THE CAUSES OF HEPATIC INSUFFICIENCY.

4. USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE, WHOSE WIFE IS A DOCTOR, ON THE  
OTHER HAND, TOLD PAO TODAY THAT DOCTOR FRIENDS OF HIS  
WIFE WERE SAYING THAT TITO IS NOT SICK AT ALL BUT IS JUST  
"DUCKING."

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5. SAME BELGRADE SURGEON WHO MADE ABOVE COMMENTS ON TITO'S

HEALTH SAID FLAT OUT THAT KARDELJ HAS CANCER OF SIGMOID COLON.

6. WE NOTE WESTERN PRESS HAS BEEN SPECULATING ABOUT EXACT MEANING OF ADJECTIVE "AKUTNA" USED IN SEPTEMBER 11 TANJUG ANNOUNCEMENT TO DESCRIBE TITO'S HEALTH. YUGOSLAVS SAY WORD IMPLIES A NON-CHRONIC PROBLEM WHICH COMES ON SUDDENLY AND IS SHARP BUT MAY OR MAY NOT BE SERIOUS. UNLIKE HANDLING OF KARDELJ'S PROBLEM WHERE THERE WAS A STEADY STREAM OF PUBLICIZED VISITORS TO HIS BED BUT LIKE HANDLING OF TITO'S FLU CASE, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER PUBLICITY ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS OR CONDITION. SILBERMAN

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NNN

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